
HOUSE BILL 2351

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Stanford, Ryu, Peterson, Hudgins, and Jinkins

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1 AN ACT Relating to providing consumer notice regarding cinnamon
2 sources that naturally contain high levels of coumarin; adding a new
3 section to chapter 69.04 RCW; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that coumarin is
6 a toxicant that has been generally banned for use as a food additive
7 by the United States department of agriculture since 1954 due to its
8 propensity to cause liver damage in sensitive populations. Although
9 banned as an intentional additive for most foods, coumarin is still
10 present in the American food supply as a naturally occurring
11 component of some common food flavorings.

12 (2) The legislature further finds that the product commonly
13 marketed as cinnamon may, in actuality, be a derivative of a variety
14 of different plants in the *Cinnamomum* genus, each naturally
15 developing different coumarin profiles. Ceylon cinnamon, also known
16 as true cinnamon, is one such source plant that happens to naturally
17 produce low levels of coumarin. However, most cinnamon in commerce
18 today derives from other related species that, as a group, are
19 referred to as cassia cinnamon. The dried bark from these species
20 contain substantial amounts of naturally occurring coumarin and could
21 pose a risk to a member of a sensitive population.

1 (3) The legislature further finds that it is in the public's
2 interest to allow cinnamon consumers to easily identify whether
3 cinnamon being offered for sale is derived from Ceylon cinnamon or
4 cassia cinnamon so that an informed purchasing decision can be made
5 regarding coumarin levels.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 69.04
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) Any package labeled as whole cinnamon bark or ground cinnamon
9 that is not wholly derived from the dried inner bark of the Ceylon or
10 true cinnamon plant (*Cinnamomum verum*) must include conspicuous
11 notice to the potential end consumer that the contents of the package
12 contains cassia cinnamon. At a minimum, this notice must include the
13 word "cassia" appearing on the label in the same size and font as
14 largest appearance of the word "cinnamon" on the package.

15 (2) This section applies to all cinnamon not derived from the
16 plant known as *Cinnamomum verum*, including cinnamon derived from the
17 plants known as *Cinnamomum cassia*, *Cinnamomum loureiroi*, and
18 *Cinnamomum burmannii*.

19 (3) This section only applies to cinnamon sold as a stand-alone
20 end product. This section does not apply to other products with
21 cinnamon listed or included among other ingredients.

22 (4) Any package sold or offered for sale in violation of this
23 section is deemed to be misbranded under this chapter.

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